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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

September 3, 2009

Mr. Bruno Maestri
Norfolk Southern Corporation
1 Constitution Avenue Northeast, # 300
Washington, D.C. 20002-5618

Dear Mr. Maestri:

I want to thank you for your responsiveness to my inquiry about the parked rail cars in Bay Village along Norfolk Southern's Nickel Plate Line. I appreciate that the cars were removed from the siding on that line this week.

I understand that due to the deep economic recession, approximately 1,200 of Norfolk Southern's locomotives and 30,000 rail cars were idled and that moving these cars was no simple matter. Therefore, I am pleased with the efforts you have taken to respond to the needs of my constituents in Bay Village to find other places to park these trains.

As you know, the City of Bay Village is a party, along with Rocky River and Lakewood, to a 1998 agreement with Norfolk Southern which was instrumental in the success of Norfolk Southern's and CSX's bid before the federal Surface Transportation Board to acquire the assets of Conrail. I worked closely with the railroad and the three cities on the content of that agreement and strongly supported the acquisition after this and other local agreements were reached. Bay Village is a well-kept residential community. The prolonged presence of the rail cars was a serious burden on the quality of life for the people who live there. I hope that if a situation arises in the future in which space is needed to park rail cars, that Bay Village and the other residential neighborhoods of Ohio's 10th Congressional District could be avoided. Thanks again for your responsiveness to the needs of the people of Bay Village and Ohio's 10th Congressional District.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress